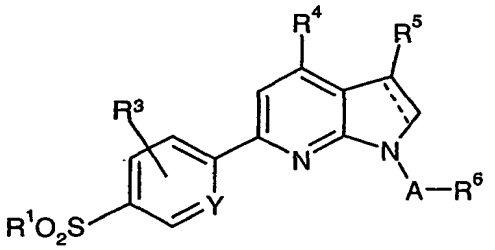
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I)

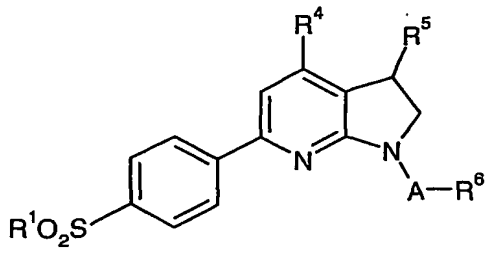


(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in which:

Y is selected from the group consisting of CH or nitrogen;
R^1 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6}alkyl, NH_2 and R^2CONH;
R^2 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkylOC_{1-6}alkyl, phenyl, HO_2CC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyl$OCOC_{1-6}$alkyl, C_{1-6}alkylOCO, H_2NC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyl$OCONHC_{1-6}$alkyl and C_{1-6}alkyl$CONHC_{1-6}$alkyl;
R^3 is selected from the group consisting of H and halogen;
R^4 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-5}alkyl, and C_{1-2}alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms;
R^5 is selected from the group consisting of H, CHO, and C_{1-6}alkyl which is unsubstituted or is substituted one or more times by halogen or hydroxy;
A is $(CH_2)_n$ or $-SO_2-$;
R^6 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{4-8} cycloalkyl, phenyl and 6-membered heteroaryl, wherein the phenyl and 6-membered heteroaryl ring may be unsubstituted or substituted one or more times by halogen or C_{1-6} alkyl; and
n is 0 to 3.

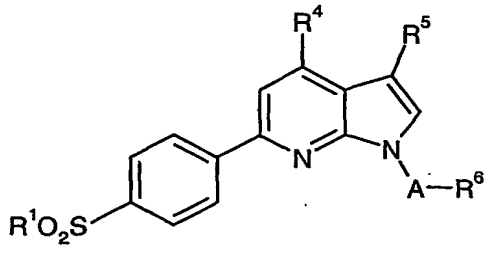
2. A compound of formula (IA)



(IA)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in which all substituents are as for a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1.

3. A compound of formula (IB)



(IB)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in which all substituents are as for a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1.

4. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 3 wherein R^1 is C_{1-6}alkyl.

5. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 4 wherein R^4 is H, CHF_2, CH_2F, CF_3 or C_{1-4}alkyl.

6. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 5 wherein R^5 is H, C_{1-4}alkyl, -CHO, or $-(CH_2)_nCH_2OH$.

7. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 6 wherein R^6 is C_{3-5}alkyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl optionally substituted by C_{1-3}alkyl, or phenyl optionally substituted by halogen.

8. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 7 wherein n is 0 or 1.

9. A compound according to claim 3 wherein R^1 is C_{1-3}alkyl, R^4 is H, CHF_2, CH_2F, CF_3 or C_{1-4}alkyl, R^5 is H, C_{1-4}alkyl, -CHO, or $-CH_2OH$, n is 1, and R^6

is C_{3-5}alkyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl optionally substituted by C_{1-3}alkyl, or phenyl optionally substituted by halogen.

10. A compound according to claim 3 wherein R^1 is C_{1-3}alkyl, R^4 is H, CHF_2, CH_2F, CF_3 or C_{1-4}alkyl, R^5 is H, C_{1-4}alkyl, -CHO, or $-CH_2OH$, n is 0, and R^6 is phenyl optionally substituted by halogen.

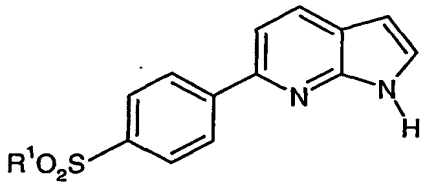
11. A compound according to claim 3 wherein R^1 is CH_3, R^3 is H, R^4 is H, R^5 is H, C_{1-4}alkyl, -CHO, or $-CH_2OH$, A is $(CH_2)_n$ and n is 1, and R^6 is C_{3-5}alkyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl optionally substituted by CH_3, or phenyl optionally substituted by chloro.

12. A compound according to claim 3 wherein R^1 is CH_3, R^3 is H, R^4 is H, R^5 is H, A is $(CH_2)_n$ and n is 0, and R^6 is phenyl optionally substituted by fluoro.

13. A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 and selected from any of the Examples 1 to 18.

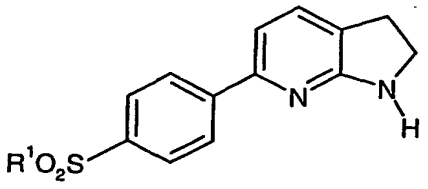
14. A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (IA), as defined in claim 2, where each of R^4 and R^5 is hydrogen, which comprises:

reducing a compound of formula (III)



(III)

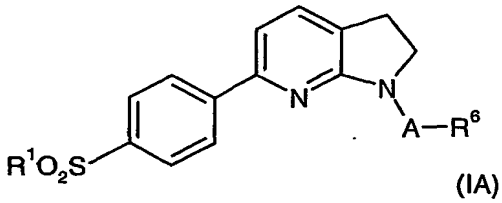
to form a compound of formula (VIII);



(VIII)

reacting said compound of formula (VIII) with a compound R^6-A-X, or a protected derivative thereof, where X is a halogen, such as Cl, Br or I, or a sulfonate such as methanesulfonate, (4-methyl)benzenesulfonate or

trifluoromethanesulfonate, and A and R^6 are as hereinbefore defined; such as to produce a compound of formula (IA), wherein R^4 and R^5 are both hydrogen



(IA)

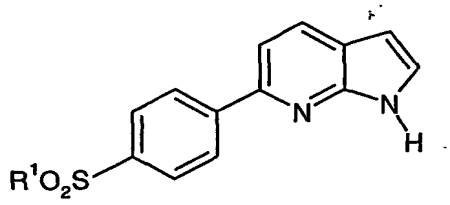
and thereafter and if necessary,

interconverting said compound of formula (IA) into another compound of formula (IA); and/or

deprotecting a protected derivative of compound of formula (IA).

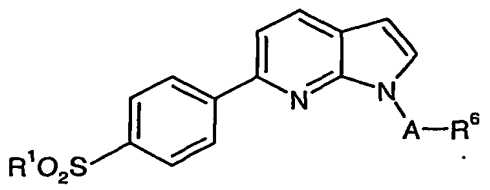
15. A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (IB), as defined in claim 3, where each of R^4 and R^5 is hydrogen, which comprises:

reacting a compound R^6-A-X (II) or a protected derivative thereof, with a compound of formula (III)



(III)

where X is a halogen, such as Cl, Br or I, or a sulfonate, such as methanesulfonate, (4-methyl)benzenesulfonate or trifluoromethanesulfonate, and R^6 and A are as hereinbefore defined, to produce a compound of formula (IB) in accordance with the present invention :



(IB)

and thereafter and if necessary,

interconverting said compound of formula (IB) into another compound of formula (I); and/or

deprotecting a protected derivative of compound of formula (IB).

16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 10 in admixture with one or more physiologically acceptable carriers or excipients.

17. A compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 10 for use in human or veterinary medicine.

18. A method of treating a human or animal subject suffering from a condition which is mediated by COX-2 which comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 10.

19. A method of treating a human or animal subject suffering from an inflammatory disorder, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 10.

20. The use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 10 for the manufacture of a therapeutic agent for the treatment of a condition which is mediated by COX-2.

21. The use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 10 for the manufacture of a therapeutic agent for the treatment of an inflammatory disorder.